

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2004

497J0832

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1023

Introduced by: Representative Heineman and Senator Olson (Ed)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing the investment of the South Dakota taxpayers
2 in the state's K-12 public education system and the need for accountability to the taxpayers
3 for that investment.

4 WHEREAS, the future economic development and vitality of South Dakota as outlined in
5 the Governor's 2010 Initiative begins with the education of South Dakota's children; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately nine hundred million dollars of local, county, state, and federal
7 revenue is currently invested in education in this state for fiscal year 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature is authorizing additional funding for fiscal year 2005 that
9 includes an inflationary increase of over five million dollars, the reinvestment of over three
10 million dollars not used in the state aid formula due to declining enrollments, a supplemental
11 allocation of one million eight hundred thousand dollars, and an increase of one million five
12 hundred thousand dollars in the state aid formula for special education; and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature in 2001 proposed to the electors an amendment to the South
14 Dakota Constitution which created the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund that now holds the
15 funds awarded to the state through the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, and the
16 Legislature has authorized the distribution of over seven million dollars of earnings from that



1 fund to the state's school districts in fiscal year 2005; and

2 WHEREAS, South Dakota's unparalleled commitment to education technology will
3 continue in fiscal year 2005 with an appropriation of over eight million dollars; and

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the value of increased federal funding for general
5 education which has grown seventy percent since the enactment of the No Child Left Behind
6 Act of 2001, and the value of the increased federal funding for special education which has
7 grown by almost sixty-nine percent during that same period; and

8 WHEREAS, South Dakota has received a Reading First grant worth fourteen million five
9 hundred thousand dollars over six years that will help students in the greatest need for reading
10 assistance, and an Improving Teacher Quality grant that provides thirteen million dollars to fund
11 the South Dakota Every Teacher program that supports teacher excellence and helps ensure
12 there is a highly qualified teacher in every classroom in the state; and

13 WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized two million two hundred thousand dollars for
14 the South Dakota Reads program, a professional development reading program for elementary
15 and special education teachers; and

16 WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized one million nine hundred thousand dollars in
17 funding for the South Dakota opportunity scholarship program that will reward high achieving
18 South Dakota high school graduates who attend South Dakota colleges; and

19 WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized five hundred thousand dollars for the creation
20 of regional educational service agencies to facilitate the efficient delivery of education resources
21 to the state's school districts; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature has authorized five hundred thousand dollars to enhance and
23 create new opportunities in secondary career and technical education programs by allowing for
24 the support of alternative delivery systems, the development of closer alliances to postsecondary

1 education and business and industry, and the development of curriculum to address the current
2 needs of business and industry; and

3 WHEREAS, the Legislature identifies ensuring continuous measurable improvement in
4 student achievement for every child, ensuring that every South Dakota student completes high
5 school prepared for postsecondary education or his or her life's work, and actively involving
6 parents in the academic lives of their children as a few of the important goals, among many, for
7 the state's system of public education:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
9 ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the taxpayers
10 of South Dakota be recognized for their investment in education; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature work cooperatively with the
12 Department of Education and the Board of Education to be accountable to the taxpayers for their
13 investment by creating additional goals and performance standards that lead to continuous
14 improvement in the achievement of our students in this state; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Legislative Research
16 Council provide guidance to the Department of Education in the development of the content and
17 format of the annual written evaluation of educational progress that the department is required
18 to submit to the Legislature and to the public pursuant to § 13-3-51.